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September 10, 2015

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Caroline Kwan
Remedial Project Manager
Special Projects Branch
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 20th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Re: Progress Report No. 50 – August 2015
Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Kwan:

Anchor QEA is submitting this monthly progress report (MPR) for the Newtown Creek Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) on behalf of the Newtown Creek Group (NCG) Respondents to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). As set forth in Section 42 of said Settlement Agreement, this progress report is divided into the following areas:

1. Actions taken to comply with the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
2. Results of sampling and tests and all other data received by Respondents to the Settlement Agreement during the previous month
3. Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays
4. Work planned for the next 2 months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

1. Actions Taken to Comply with Settlement Agreement during Previous Month

- Additional comments on the *Phase 2 RI Field Program – QAPP/FSAP Deviation Memorandum No. 9* were provided via e-mail by USEPA on August 2. Responses to these comments were submitted to USEPA on August 13. USEPA approved these responses on August 18 but indicated that the use of the NewFields sediment contaminant data will be considered after the reanalysis of the Phase 1 archived cores samples for total organic carbon (TOC) is complete and the reanalysis data are evaluated and compared with the original TOC dataset.
- Additional geochronology information was requested by USEPA on August 5. Specifically, the following information was requested: 1) Phase 1 geochronology sample data validation reports; 2) Phase 1 sample field logs; and 3) detailed laboratory information relating to the lead-210 (Pb-210) and bismuth-210 (Bi-210) procedures. This information was provided to USEPA on August 24.
- A request for a series of technical meetings to discuss data collected during the Phase 1 and Phase 2 field programs was provided via e-mail by USEPA on August 6. A proposed schedule for these presentations was provided via e-mail to USEPA on August 11. USEPA provided comments on this proposed schedule via e-mail on August 19. A revised schedule that addressed these comments was provided via e-mail to USEPA on September 1.
- The *Phase 2 Field Sampling and Analysis Plan – Volume 2 Addendum No. 3*, which presented the methods to be employed during the ebullition field survey, was submitted via e-mail to USEPA on August 11. USEPA provided comments on this addendum on August 14. A revised addendum that addressed USEPA comments was submitted via e-mail to USEPA on August 15. USEPA approved the revised addendum on August 15.
- Notification that the monitoring well cluster in English Kills (EK098) was hit and knocked over, and a recommendation to remove this well cluster, were provided to USEPA on August 12. USEPA agreed with this recommendation on August 12.
- Comments on the *Phase 2 RI Field Program – QAPP/FSAP Deviation Memorandum No. 12* were provided via e-mail by USEPA on August 20. Responses to these comments were submitted via e-mail to USEPA on September 2.
- Tables summarizing Phase 2 fish sample lengths and weights were provided to USEPA on August 26.

- The Phase 2 field investigation continued in August. Specifically, the following activities were performed:
 - Last monthly download of long-term potentiometric data loggers and removal of equipment (week of August 3)
 - Water quality sondes were retrieved, calibrated, and redeployed at NC310, NC313, NC316, NC318, EB043, and EK108 (week of August 3) and cleaned/monitored (throughout August)
 - Point sources sampling
 - Reconnaissance at the Newtown Creek Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) for dissolved/particulate split sampling (August 7)
 - Wet-weather sampling event (August 11)
 - Whole-water sampling at National Grid Greenpoint Energy Center (NG001), Long Island Expressway runoff (LIE001), NCB-629, Hugo Neu Schnitzer (HN002), RAD001, Amtrak (BB610), Meeker Avenue (MA001), and ExxonMobil Greenpoint Remediation Project (EM001B)
 - Dissolved/particulate sampling at LIE001, NCB-629, HN002, and MA001
 - Wet-weather sampling event (August 21)
 - Whole-water sampling at NCB-002, NCB-083, NCQ-077, Newtown Creek WPCP (NCWPCP), Meeker Avenue (MA001), and Hugo Neu Schnitzer (HN002)
 - Bulk water sampling at NCQ-077
 - Dissolved/particulate sampling at NCB-002, NCQ-077, and NCWPCP
 - False starts occurred at NCB-015 (lack of discharge) and O-185 (insufficient discharge for sampling)
 - Dry-weather sampling at the Con Edison – 11th Street Conduit (CE11SC; August 25)
 - Surface water during point sources discharge sampling event (August 11 and 12)
 - Ebullition field survey (August 18 and 19)
 - Phase 1 archive core processing for visual observation (August 24 through 27)
- Phase 2 field program planning and implementation continued in August.

2. Results of Sampling and Tests and Other Data Received by NCG Respondents during Previous Month

- Quality control (QC) review of field data from point sources wet-weather sampling (Events 9 and 10), point sources dry-weather sampling (Events 5 and 6), and surface water during point sources discharges (Event 4) was completed. The field data for these events are included on the enclosed compact disc (CD) as part of this MPR.
- The following validated analytical datasets are included in the enclosed CD:
 - Surface Water Deliverable No. 3, which contains the following events:
East River Surface Water Events 8 (January 2015), 9 (February 2015), and 10 (March 2015) and Surface Water during Point Source Discharge Events 2 (March 2015) and 3 (April 2015)
 - Sediment Trap Events 7 (January 2015), 8 (February 2015), and 9 (March 2015).
 - Point Sources Wet Weather Events 4 (March 14, 2015), 5 (April 20-21, 2015), 6 (June 14-15, 2015), 7 (June 21, 2015), and 8 (June 27-28, 2015) and Dry Weather Events 2 (May 6-7, 2015), 3 (May 14, 2015), and 4 (May 28, 2015).
Laboratory and validation reports for samples collected at New York City locations are also included.

3. Encountered and Anticipated Problems and/or Delays and Solutions Developed and Implemented to Address Them

- The NCG has requested information from the City of New York that is needed to complete the RI/FS. An updated listing of these requests is provided as an attachment to this MPR.

4. Work Planned for the Next 2 Months with Schedules Relating to the Overall Project Schedule for RI/FS Completion

- The draft *Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment – Recommended Fish and Crab Consumption Rates* is planned for submission to USEPA.
- Project update meetings with USEPA are scheduled for September 11 and October 22.
- Continue the Phase 2 field investigation in September, including the following:
 - Surface water during point sources discharge sampling events
 - Continuous water quality measurements from in-creek sondes

- Point sources sampling at locations that have not been sampled yet (i.e., NCB-631 and NCQ-632B) and combined sewer overflows (CSOs) where access may be limited due to bending weir construction (i.e., NCQ-077, NCB-083, and NCB-015) will be prioritized over locations that have already been sampled.
- Sampling at Waste Management of NY/Steel Equities (formerly POW) (DAR No. 56)/Town, County and State Recycling, Inc. (aka Review Avenue Recycling, Inc.) (DAR No. 145) can now be conducted once the access agreement is finalized. Construction on stormwater improvements was completed in August.
- Further sampling at Maspeth Concrete Loading Corp. – Metropolitan Avenue (DAR No. 210) cannot occur until the new owner provides access to the property.

If you have any questions regarding this progress report, please do not hesitate to contact me at (201) 571-0912 (e-mail: jquadrini@anchorqea.com).

Sincerely,



Jim Quadrini, P.E., BCEE
Anchor QEA, LLC

Attachments

- CD containing field data and validated Phase 2 chemistry data
- An updated New York City Data Request listing

cc: Joseph Battipaglia, USEPA Region 2 Co-Remedial Project Manager
Michael Mintzer, USEPA Region 2 Assistant Regional Counsel
Ian Beilby, NYSDEC, Division of Environmental Remediation
W. David Bridgers, Common Counsel for Newtown Creek Group Respondents
Edward Leonard, CDM Smith

New York City Data Request

Item No.	Date Requested	Information Needed	Information Type (Data, Document, Model)	Status as of 9/8/2015	Reason for Request
1	9/10/2012 ¹	Data from monitored/telemetered combined sewer infrastructure that discharges to Newtown Creek, including NCB-015	Data	Not Provided. NYC indicated that they would provide analysis and data from 12 months of data collection (April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015) on August 15, 2015 and that other data from previous years would be provided at that time as well. NYC provided an update on July 10, and as a follow up to that call NCG reiterated their request for the following data: 1. Raw CSO flow metering data 2. Processed (“triangulated”) flow metering data used to re-calibrate the PS model a. Any additional data (besides raw flow metering data) used to generate the “triangulated” data 3. Detailed description of method used to generate the “triangulated” data 4. Updated geo-neutral PS model a. Detailed description of: i. Re-calibration procedure and results ii. Changes made to the geo-neutral model as a result of the re-calibration process b. Revised input and output files	This information is required to evaluate combined sewer discharges to the creek and support the modeling effort.
5	9/10/2012 ¹	a. Available CSO/SSO flow monitoring data, along with data used in the modeling for the Long-term Control Plan (including flow data for BB-026 and any additional locations that discharge to Newtown Creek that are available) b. A status update on NYC CSO flow metering program and a detailed schedule for completion of activities and transfer of data	Data		This information is required for model calibration—flow data will be used in conjunction with other variables to evaluate hydro model performance. Flow data will also be used to inform the sampling effort and approach.
21	2/19/2015	Records related to groundwater seepage or withdrawals in the Newtown Creek Watershed associated with New York City infrastructure; categories include the following: – Dewatering of the subway system – Groundwater seepage into CSOs – Other groundwater dewatering	Data Document	Partially Provided. NYCDEP provided responses regarding subway and building/utility dewatering and industrial water supply; however, they indicated that they will provide other updates at a later date. Information about groundwater seepage into CSOs is still outstanding.	This information is required to support the groundwater evaluation.
22	8/20/2015	A copy of the July 1 Flow Meter presentation that was presented by NYCDEP to USEPA and the NCG.	Document	Not Provided. NYCDEP has not responded to this request.	See request Nos. 1 and 5.

Notes:

1 = In some cases, the request has been updated to be more specific or include more recent information that became available since the previous request.

BB = Bowery Bay

CSO = combined sewer overflow

NCB = Newtown Creek Brooklyn

NCG = Newtown Creek Group

NYC = New York City

NYCDEP or DEP = New York City Department of Environmental Protection

SSO = sanitary sewer overflow

USEPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency